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LETTER to the PRINTER

O F T H E

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BIRMINGHAM GAZETTE,

Dated OCTOBER 14, 1791,

And also upon a *Letter* addressed to the *Inhabitants*

O F W A R W I C K,

Dated AUGUST 8, 1794,

By WILLIAM FIELD,

MINISTER of the *Dissenting Congregation*
Assembling in the *High-Street*, WARWICK.

By R. MILLER, VICAR. and H. LAUGHARNE,
CURATE, of *St. Nicholas*, WARWICK.

SECOND EDITION.

WARWICK:

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1882

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REMARKS, &c.

A Letter addressed to the Printer of the Birmingham Gazette, dated OCTOBER 14th 1791, containing injurious Reflections upon our Characters and Conduct, having been published by *William Field*, Minister of the Dissenting Congregation assembling in the HIGH-STREET in this Borough, We think it incumbent upon us to lay before the Publick the following Particulars, by which it may be judged how far the said Reflections are founded in Truth and Justice.

It is necessary to premise, that in the Letter abovementioned, *Mr. Miller* is charged by *Mr. Field* with endeavouring, with the Assistance of his Curate, to undermine the Dissenting Sunday School by concealed and dishonourable Methods. As an Instance of this Conduct, He asserts, that *Mr. Miller* applied to the Parents of two Children of the Name of *Penn*, who had been admitted into the Dissenting School, and “*offered them, Money*, upon the express Condition that their Children should be taken “from the School;” that failing in this Offer, “He next proceeded to try the Effect of “*cruel Threats*, declaring, that if his Will “was not obeyed, and the Children withdrawn from the Dissenting School, both “Parents and Children be should turned “out of the Parish!”

To this serious and heavy Charge we oppose the following Affidavit of the Parents themselves.

Borough

*Borough of Warwick in the County
of Warwick.*

THE voluntary Affidavit of *William Penn*, of the Parish of *Saint Nicholas* in the Borough of WARWICK aforesaid, Labourer; and of *Susannah* his Wife; Sworn before *George Cattell*, Esq: Mayor of the said Borough, on the Tenth Day of November, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

THE said *William Penn* and *Susannah* his Wife, upon their Oath each speaking for himself and herself respectively severally say, that they were respectively bred up to the Church of England, and are now Members thereof. THAT a short Time since two of their Sons went to the Presbyterian Sunday School in WARWICK. And these Deponents further severally respectively say, That the Rev. *Mr. Miller* never offered either

ther of these Deponents any money on any Occasion whatsoever, nor used any Threats of any Kind to induce them to take their Children from the Presbyterian Sunday School; nor did the said *Mr. Miller* ever apply to either of these Deponents so to do. And these Deponents do each speaking for himself and herself further respectively say, that He the said *William Penn* did not, and that She the said *Susannah Penn* did not ever tell *Mr. Field* the Presbyterian Minister or any other Person, that the said *Mr. Miller* had ever offered any Money, or used any Threats, or any other Means, to induce these Deponents, or either of them, to take their Children from the Presbyterian Sunday School.

Sworn before me
George Cattell MAYOR

The Mark of

×

William Penn.

The Mark of

×

Susannah Penn.

We now beg Leave to call the Attention of the Publick to a Letter of *Mr. Field*, addressed upon the 8th of AUGUST last to the Inhabitants of WARWICK. As the Conduct of *Mr. Miller* is therein grossly misrepresented, it may seem extrarodinary that He has so long deferred to take Notice of it. He therefore wishes it to be understood, that as this Letter was publicly read, and refuted to the Satisfaction of a numerous and respectable Body of the Inhabitants, assembled at the Court-House, He considered it as fully answered by the Resolutions adopted at that Meeting.

However, as He is now addressing the Publick in his Vindication, He will take the Opportunity of making a few Remarks upon some Assertions, contained in the said Letter. In one Part of it, *Mr. Field* says that “the Dissenters may safely give the Challenge to *Mr. Miller* or to any other Person, to produce a single Instance of a Child

"admitted into their School, who did not
 "come without any previous Solicitation
 "whatever."

In Answer to this the Publick will please
 to attend to the Depositions of *Mary Pitta-*
way and *Elizabeth Underhill*.

Borough of Warwick in the County
of Warwick.

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Mary*
Pittarway Wife of *Thomas Pittarway*
 of the Parish of *St. Nicholas* in the
 Borough of WARWICK aforesaid,
 Labourer—And *Elizabeth Underhill*,
 Wife of *Joseph Underhill* of the same
 Parish, Labourer; Sworn before *Geo.*
Cattell Esq; Mayor of the said Bo-
 rough on the Tenth Day of *November*,
 One Thousand Seven Hundred and
 Ninety One.

THE

THE said *Mary Pittaway* on her Oath faith, that She was bred up to the Church of England, and that She and her said Husband are now Members thereof — That on last Whit-Monday one *Mrs. Sandford*, of the Parish of *St. Nicholas* in the said Borough, came to this Deponent, and told her that if She would let her Children go to the Presbyterian Sunday School, each of them would have a Cap & Tippet, and be taken good care of — AND the said *Elizabeth Underhill* on her Oath faith, that in a few Days after Whit-Monday last *Mrs. Parkes*, Wife of *Mr. John Parkes* of the said Borough, Mercer, came to the House where this Deponent, and the said *Mary Pittaway* reside, and told this Deponent that She the said *Mrs. Parkes* would be glad to speak with the said *Mary Pittaway* at her the said *Mrs. Parkes*' House — That this Deponent accordingly informed the said *Mary Pittaway*, when She returned Home, what the said *Mrs. Parkes* said — And the said *Mary Pittaway* on her Oath further faith,

that

that in a few Days afterwards She went to the said *Mrs. Parkes*, who told this Deponent. that if She would let her Daughters come to the Presbyterian Sunday School, they should each of them have a Cap & Tippet on their Entrance, and that in about a week or fortnight they should each of them have a Gown, half the Price of which Gown this Deponent was to pay, and the other half the said *Mrs. Parkes*. And the said *Mrs. Parkes* at the same Time asked this Deponent to go to the Presbyterian Meeting herself—That in Consequence of what *Mrs. Parkes* said, She this Deponent sent two of her Daughters to the Presbyterian Sunday School on the next Sunday, and they each of them had a Cap & Tippet given them, as they informed this Deponent; but She did not go herself to the Meeting —That in a short Time afterwards this Deponent's said Daughters informed her, that the said *Mrs. Parkes* desired them to ask this Deponent and her Husband, why they did not attend at the Meeting, and told them that it was most

most proper the Parents should attend where the Children went—And this Deponent *Mary Pittaway* further saith, that She had no thoughts of sending her Children to the Presbyterian Sunday School, until She was asked so to do by the said *Mrs. Sandford*, and the said *Mrs. Parkes*—And further saith, that on her taking her children from the said Sunday School, the Cap and Tippet each of them had received were taken from them.

Sworn before me

The Mark of

George Cattell, MAYOR.

×

Mary Pittaway.

The Mark of

×

Elizabeth Underhill.

IN another Part of the Letter, where *Mr. Field* endeavours to exculpate the Dissenters from the Charge of seducing Parents from the Communion of the Church of England, He alledges, that their View “is not to raise

“ raise one religious Society at the Expence
 “ of another, but to bring to a Place of Wor-
 “ ship those, who are accustomed to attend
 “ no Place of Public Worship at all.”

OF the Truth of this Assertion the Pub-
 lic will judge from the following Deposi-
 tions.

*Borough of Warwick in the County
 of Warwick.*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Ann
 Canning* Wife of *William Canning*
 of the Parish of *Saint Nicholas* in the
 Borough of *WARWICK* aforesaid,
 Labourer; Sworn before *George Cattell*
 Esq. Mayor of the said Borough, on
 the Tenth Day of November, One
 Thousand Seven Hundred and nine-
 ty one.

THE

THE said *Ann Canning* on her Oath faith; That she & her Husband are Members of the Church of England. That She had two Children at the Presbyterian Sunday School for a considerable Time, but they have not attended it for the last half Year. That in the Course of the Time her Children went to the said School, *Mrs. Parkes* Wife of *Mr. John Parkes* of the said Borough, Mercer, called upon this Deponent, and asked this Deponent if She would oblige her (*Mrs. Parkes*) by going to the Presbyterian Meeting, and desired her (this Deponent) to ask her Husband to go there, and told her that if she went, She should have a Penny a Time, and if regular in her Attendance some other little Charities. That this Deponent desired Time to consider of it. And the said *Mrs. Parkes* sent her (this Deponent) some Tickets and a Book, and that upon reading such Book, and weighing the whole Matter, this Deponent determined not to go to the Meeting. And this Deponent further faith, that the said *Mrs.*

Parkes

Parkes called a second Time on this Deponent, and asked her why She did not attend the Meeting; that this Deponent in Answer said, She had been bred up to the Church, was christened in the Church, constantly attended the Church, and frequently received the Sacrament, and thought it would be a wicked Thing to leave the Church. That the said *Mrs. Parkes* still pressed this Deponent to go to Meeting, observing to her that she (*Mrs. Parkes*) did not wish her (this Deponent) to receive the Sacrament at the Meeting at present, but She *Mrs. Parkes* was sure in Time this Deponent would like the Dissenting Form of Worship better & better. That on this Deponent still refusing to go to Meeting, *Mrs. Parkes* with some Warmth asked this Deponent, How She could think they would take any Care of, or pay any Attention, to her this Deponent's Children, if She would not go to Meeting? This Deponent then said, You may do as you please Madam. That this Deponent never went but once to the Meeting

ing

ing in all her Life, and that about a Year and a Half ago.

Ann Canning.

Sworn before me

George Cattell MAYOR.

*Borough of Warwick in the County
of Warwick.*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Elizabeth Sutton*, Wife of *Richard Sutton* of the Parish of *Saint Nicholas* in the Borough of *WARWICK* afore-said, Labourer; Sworn before *George Cattell* Esq. Mayor of the said Borough on the Tenth of November, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

THE said *Elizabeth Sutton* upon her Oath faith, That She was bred up to the Church of England, And that She and her said Husband

band are now Members thereof. That in the last and present Year She sent one of her Sons to the Presbyterian Sunday School in the said Borough. That after this Deponent's Son had attended such School some Time, *Mrs. Parkes* Wife of *Mr. John Parkes* of the said Borough, Mercer, asked this Deponent to attend the Presbyterian Meeting. And that She then told the said *Mrs. Parkes*, that She this Deponent and her Husband had been bred up to the Church of England, and constantly went to Church. That the said *Mrs. Parkes* then pressed this Deponent much to go to the Presbyterian Meeting, and told her Bread was usually distributed at the Meeting, but if she would come, she should have her Share either in Money, or if She chose it in Goods out of the Shop. That the said *Mrs. Parkes* then gave this Deponent three Tickets for herself and her Husband to come to the said Meeting, and told her both of them must attend regularly if they could; if not, one of them must not
 fail

fail, and deliver one of those Tickets to the Clerk of the Meeting each Sunday, and that when the three Tickets were delivered in, they should receive one Penny for each Ticket, but that neither She nor her Husband ever went.

Sworn before me
George Cattell, MAYOR.

The Mark of
X
Elizabeth Sutton.

*Borough of Warwick in the County
of Warwick.*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Jonathan Hamp* of the Parish of *Saint Nicholas* in the Borough of Warwick aforesaid, Cordwainer; Sworn before *George Cattell Esq.* Mayor of the said Borough, on the tenth Day of November, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

B

THE

THE said *Jonathan Hamp* on his Oath saith, that he was bred up to the Church of England, and is now a Member thereof; That he had a Child who went a considerable time to the Presbyterian Sunday-School, in the said Borough; that in the course of the time his child attended such School, *Mrs. Parkes* Wife of *Mr. John Parkes* of the said Borough, Mercer, sent for and asked this Deponent what place of Worship he went to? That he told her he went for the most part regularly to Church; she then asked him if he had any objection to go to Meeting, at the same time informing him, there were little Charities which were intended to be bestowed on the Parents of such Children, as went to the said School, if such Parents attended the Meeting. And this Deponent further saith, that in consequence of the offers and persuasions of the said *Mrs. Parkes*, he sometimes went to the Meeting; That in the course of attending the Meeting, the said *Mr. John Parkes* asked this Deponent if he would

would be Clerk to the Meeting? That this Deponent said he must consider of it, for if he accepted that place he supposed he must leave the Church, and the said *Mr. Parkes* in answer said Yes, and then desired to have an answer from this Deponent as soon as possible, and told him that he (the said *Mr. Parkes*) would wish to give this Deponent some Cloaths, that he might appear Smart, and that there would be something coming constantly into his Pocket; and this Deponent saith, that on consideration and consulting his Friends, he determined not to leave the Church, and therefore did not accept the Clerk's Place, and soon after took his Child away.

Jonathan Hamp.

Sworn before me

George Cattell, MAYOR.

B 2

Borough

*Borough of Warwick in the County
of Warwick*

THE Voluntary Affidavit of *Mary Beazeley*, Wife of *Jonathan Beazeley*, residing in the Parish of *St. Nicholas*, in the Borough of Warwick aforesaid, Labourer; Sworn before *Geo. Cattell*, Esq. Mayor of the said Borough, on the Tenth Day of November, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety One.

THE said *Mary Beazeley* on her Oath faith, that She has for some considerable Time lived in the House of one *Jonathan Hamp*; That some Time in the Month of June last past, *Mrs. Parkes*, the Wife of *Mr. John Parkes*, of the said Borough, Mercer, came to the said House, and asked this Deponent where *Jonathan Hamp* was; and on this Deponent informing *Mrs. Parkes*, that he was out at Work, She asked

ed where *Mrs. Hamp* was; and on being told She was from Home, the said *Mrs. Parkes* asked this Deponent, What was the reason why Mary, the Daughter of *Jonathan Hamp*, was taken from the Presbyterian Sunday School, & why She went to Church? And then the said *Mrs. Parkes* said, what was the use of sending her *there*; That it would do her no good, for there would be neither Church nor Steeple to be seen in a few Years.

Sworn before me

George Cattell, MAYOR.

The Mark of

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Mary Beazeley.

To these Proofs of *Mr. Field's* Misrepresentation, many others might be added; but it is apprehended, that the Public will be sufficiently enabled to form their Opinion of *Mr. Field*, and his Letters, from what

what has been produced. We shall however request their farther Indulgence, whilst we briefly state the Conduct we have pursued, and the Principles upon which we have acted, in the Course of this Business.

Finding upon Enquiry, that the greater Part of the Dissenting School consisted of the Children of Parents, professing themselves Members of the Church of England, and that Means were employed to seduce the Parents themselves from the Church to the Meeting; We were led to consult several Gentlemen of respectable Character upon the Subject, who united in Opinion, that it was the indispensable Duty of the Clergy, to use their Endeavours to bring back both the Parents and their Children to the Communion, to which they originally belonged. Unwilling, at the same Time, to interrupt that Harmony and good Understanding, which had so long subsisted between the Members of the Church and their Dissenting Brethren, we wished to adopt such

Measures, as might reconcile our Regard for them, with the Duty which we owe to our own Congregations.

Accordingly, amicable Conferences were proposed, which unhappily ended without the desired effect.

Encouraged notwithstanding to persevere in our Duty, we have been so fortunate as to recover many of our People, by the most upright and honourable Means.

For it is but Justice to Ourselves to observe, that throughout the whole of this Affair, our only Object has been to *defend*, not to *invade*; as we have made it an invariable Rule, never to break in upon the Dissenting Congregations, determined as we are, to resist every Encroachment upon our own.

Such has been the Conduct we have pursued, such are the Principles upon which we have acted; and greatly as we lament the present Misunderstanding between the Members of the Church and the Dissenters,
we

we feel that Degree of Confidence, which arises from Truth, in laying these Particulars before the Public. To their impartial Judgment we appeal, and leave them to determine what Regard is to be paid to the Assertions of a Man, who makes no scruple of advancing the most notorious Untruths, and expects them to gain Credit from the bold and unblushing Assurance, with which He publishes them to the World.

R. Miller, Vicar }
H. Laugharne, Curate } of St. Nicholas.

P. S. WHEREAS Mr. Field, in his Letter to the Printer of the *Birmingham Gazette*, takes Notice of a Report, and argues upon the Supposition of its being true, that the Bishop of the Diocese has sent a Letter to the Members of the Church, *justifying the Dissenters, and recommending a Discontinuance of Proceedings against them*; The Gentlemen of the Committee appointed to support the Established Church in this Borough, do hereby publicly declare, that the Bishop has *not*, in any Letter sent to them, or any one else to their Knowledge, *disapproved of the Conduct of the Members of the Church, recommended a Discontinuance of their Proceedings, or justified the Dissenters.*

By Order of the Committee.
W. Daniel, Chairman.



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